MSI Journal of
Education and Social Science

ORGANIZING THE RULES FOR PARAPHRASING A RESEARCH PAPER

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The authors declare that no funding was received for this work.

OPEN ACCESS

Received: 25-September-2025
Accepted: 30-September-2025
Published: 06-October-2025

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This article is published in the **MSI Journal of Education and Social Science**

ISSN 3107-5940 (Online)

The journal is managed and published by MSI Publishers.

Volume: 1, Issue: 3 (Oct-Dec) 2025

ABSTRACT: Considering the rules for paraphrasing a research paper is a very important process.

Effective paraphrasing is essential in academic writing to avoid plagiarism, demonstrate comprehension, and present ideas clearly. This paper explores the organization and application of paraphrasing within research papers. It discusses the methods and stages where paraphrasing plays a significant role and provides practical strategies for integrating paraphrased content while maintaining academic integrity. The study further identifies challenges students face and offers recommendations for improvement.

This topic includes paraphrasing, summarizing, synthesis, steps for paraphrasing and some more.

Keywords: *Paraphrasing, research writing, academic integrity, citation, scholarly writing, paraphrasing strategies, organization in writing.*

Introduction

Writing a research paper is not like writing a composition. In a composition you express your own ideas, opinions, and feelings. In a research paper, you present information you have discovered by reading other people's writing, putting together information from a number of sources (books, periodical

articles, magazines, newspapers, internet, etc.) in your own way or paraphrasing, so that you present an original perspective on it.

The art of paraphrasing is an essential skill in the realm of research writing. Academic writers must balance the integration of existing knowledge with originality. This article aims to guide students and researchers on how to strategically organize paraphrased content within research papers and to provide clarity on its role in academic discourse.

Paraphrasing involves expressing someone else's ideas in your own words without changing the original meaning. In research papers, paraphrasing is a preferred method over direct quotation because it demonstrates understanding and allows a smooth integration of ideas. However, improper paraphrasing can lead to unintentional plagiarism, weakening the credibility of the research. This paper investigates the organizational structure of paraphrased material in research papers and proposes best practices for its application.

A research paper is not really original, because you did not discover the information for yourself: it is only in the way you present the knowledge you gained from your research (i.e., your reading) that it can be original.

In this book, you will learn important research skills: the selection of other people's work for the purposes of your own research paper. In fact, two skills are necessary before you use other people's work appropriately: a decision-making skill, and a set of writing skills. which will be explained later.

Objectives

- To define paraphrasing in the context of academic writing.
- To examine the importance of paraphrasing in research papers.
- To identify common mistakes in paraphrasing.
- To provide methods for organizing paraphrased content effectively.
- To offer strategies for teaching paraphrasing to students and researchers.

Material and Method of Work

This paper adopts a qualitative research method based on a literature review. Academic books, journal articles, online databases, and style guides such as APA and MLA were examined. Case studies of student writing were also analyzed to identify patterns and common errors in paraphrasing organization.

1. Understanding Paraphrasing

"To paraphrase means to read and understand a piece of source material (which can be of any length) and then to rewrite it in your own way." (Hamp & Berry,1984).

Paraphrasing is more than substituting words; it involves restructuring a passage while retaining the original idea. Proper paraphrasing must be cited to acknowledge the source. Paraphrasing ensures the writer's voice dominates the research paper while still building on previous work. It shows comprehension and helps avoid overuse of direct quotations.

Actually paraphrase means to change other people's language or words into your own language or words of a passage. For example, we have all watched television shows or heard news stories we wanted to tell others about. We may have told our friends, our family, or our coworkers about what happened, how it happened, and why it happened. We recounted the storyline, the main characters, the events, and important points using our own words. This is **paraphrasing** - using your own words to express someone else's message or ideas. In a paraphrase, the ideas and meaning of the original source must be maintained; the main ideas need to come through, but the wording has to be your own. https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-paraphrasing

Paraphrasing can be done with individual sentences or entire paragraphs. Here are some examples.

- **Original sentence:**

  Her life spanned years of incredible change for women.

- Paraphrased sentence:

Adela lived through an era of liberating reform for women.

- **Original sentence:**

Giraffes like acacia leaves and hay, and they can consume 75 pound of food a day.

- Paraphrased sentence:

A giraffe can eat up to 75 pounds of acacia leaves and hay every day.

Paraphrase can also be defined as below:

Paraphrasing is done when you want to retain all the ideas you find in the piece of source material: the exact meaning of the source is kept, but the way the meaning is expressed is changed. Paraphrasing shows that you understand something. If you understand the source, you should be able to express it in a different way. To do this, it is necessary to change the grammatical structure, vocabulary, rearrange the sequence of information. If this is possible, use different words except some specific terms, and the above all can be used in your own style.

Paraphrase is not an easy skill, but it is for writing a good research paper. A good paraphrase expresses the ideas of the original source correctly; it should be grammatical; and it contains nothing copied from the source except unchangeable terms.

2. Organizing Paraphrased Content

To integrate paraphrased material smoothly, consider:

- Topic sentences to introduce the idea.
- Paraphrased evidence to support the point.
- Analysis to connect the paraphrase to your argument.
- Citation to give credit.

3. Paraphrasing in Different Sections of a research paper

- Introduction: To refer to background literature or definitions.
- Literature Review: To summarize findings from previous studies.

- Methodology: Rarely used here; original description is preferred.
- Results and Discussion: To compare your findings with previous work.

4. Common Errors in Paraphrasing

- Too close to the original wording.
- Failure to cite the source.
- Loss of the original meaning.
- Fragmented integration into text.

5. Techniques to Improve Paraphrasing

- Read and understand the source first.
- Use synonyms and change sentence structure.
- Avoid looking at the original while writing your version.
- Compare with the source after paraphrasing.
- Use paraphrasing tools cautiously - always revise output.

6. Teaching and Practicing Paraphrasing

Institutions should include paraphrasing exercises in academic writing courses and provide feedback to help students develop this skill.

2. Summarizing

A summary condenses and restates the text. To summarize, you extract the main ideas of a passage and convert them into your own words and sentence patterns.

You reduce the passage-perhaps several paragraphs or even several pages-by 50 to 75 percent. To focus on the main ideas of an original source, reword the topic sentences. Use synonyms to replace major words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) and combine lesser ideas.

Minor words such as articles (a, an, the), prepositions, and conjunctions may be repeated from the original source if necessary to preserve the meaning. A thesaurus and dictionary can help you find synonyms to replace the author's words (Betty & Mattix, 2003).

Paraphrase, which is longer than summary, is the restatement of an original passage.

2.1. Writing Summaries and Paraphrasing

i) Read the entire original source carefully several times so that you are sure you understand it completely. If you can mark the original, underline the topic sentences and key points for ease of reference.

ii) Rewrite, retaining the order of the original. Changes in order may distort meaning.

iii) Reread the original. Check to see that you have not changed the order or unwittingly copied material that should be paraphrased.

iv) If you are unable to paraphrase difficult phrases, copy and enclose in quotation marks.

v) For a summary, reduce material by 50 percent or more. Paraphrase topic sentences, quoting key terms as needed. Restate major points. Combine and condense related ideas. Omit examples and minor details.

vi) Cite source and pages.

vii) Checkpoint. Is the summary or paraphrase clear? Has all important information been included?

viii) Are all spellings correct?

2. 2. Important points for paraphrasing

While paraphrasing an *original* source, there are some significant points to be considered as the following:

a. **Structure:** If you have any original source to paraphrase, its grammatical structure should be changed, but this can be done without changing meaning. Also, this kind of paraphrasing can be done by joining up sentences or by dividing up long sentences.

b. **Meaning:** The original source that you paraphrased, must have the same meaning as the original source; it should also have the same relationship between main ideas and supporting details.
c. **Vocabulary:** In case of possibility, different words can be used. This is possible, usually more common synonyms/ expressions and simpler phrases. Do not change specialized vocabulary which has no synonyms (e.g. phosphorus, plastic, theory, proton) proper names (e.g. Europe,

Asia, Australia, World Health Organization,), abbreviation such as, UN, USA, UK,

UAE, UNHCR; names of people (e.g. Helal, Nazif, Nekmal); numbers and formulae (e.g. 80%; 500K, 35pnds) or date; 1995, 2008, 2017).

d. **Length:** The length of your paraphrase should not be very much different from the length of the original source you have paraphrased.

e. **Style:** It should be your own style and not an imitation of the original source or others, even if your own style seems less perfect or not interesting to you.

2. 3. Steps in Paraphrasing

There are some considerable steps which will help you write a good paraphrase.

a. Read the original source.

b. Understand the original source.

c. Then put away the source.

d. Make a simple list of the main points you remember from the original source.

e. Reread the original source quickly to make sure you have included all the important points.

f. Put away the original source again.

g. Join together the points from your list into proper sentence structure, using

a. suitable grammar to make a continuous piece of writing.

h. Reread your paraphrase, correcting the grammar and organization if necessary.

i. Check your paraphrase against the source: Is it a good paraphrase?

If your paraphrase includes any exact phrasing from the original source, put quotation marks around those phrases.

The examples below demonstrate how this is possible: you will see the same sources twice, compare them and find out what changes would help to make them better paraphrases.

Original source 1

The president has every intention of carrying out his campaign promises. However, in the light of current conditions, he'll review what would be best in the interest of the country.

He will certainly take a pragmatic approach to it since conditions change.

Paraphrase 1

The president intends to keep his campaign promises, but he has to look at them again and consider the country's needs. He will be realistic because conditions don't remain the same.

3. Synthesis

A synthesis is a combination of information from two or more sources. You need to synthesize when you find relevant information on the same specific topic in more than one source. You can easily see that when you write a research paper, you need to synthesize throughout the paper (Hamp & Berry, 1984).

In order to make a synthesis, you need to use your decision-making skill; first to select suitable sources, then to select the relevant parts within those sources. You will then need to use your paraphrasing skills to put the relevant information into your own words. The selected and paraphrased information from all the sources has to be made to fit together into one continuous piece of writing. This has to be done in a logical way, so that connected points appear together and no information is repeated.

The best way to do this is to make a plan, or set of simple notes. Your plan will show what main points are to be included in your synthesis and in what order, regardless of which source they came from. You can make a plan either by marking up the source, or by using a separate piece of paper. Many students do, first, underlining the points in the source, and then organizing them on a sheet of paper.

Conclusion

Paraphrasing, when effectively organized, enhances the clarity, credibility, and academic integrity of a research paper. It allows writers to build upon existing knowledge while contributing their perspective. A well-structured paraphrase integrated into the paper's argument strengthens the overall impact of the research.

Suggestions

1. Academic writing workshops should focus more on paraphrasing techniques.
2. Teachers should provide model examples of well-organized paraphrases.
3. Institutions must stress ethical writing practices through training.
4. Writing centers should offer personalized support for paraphrasing.
5. Paraphrasing software must be used with critical human judgment.
6. Researchers should prioritize understanding over mechanical rewriting.
7. Peer-review systems can help identify weak or unethical paraphrasing.

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